

## Ford proposes more economic aid to Egypt than Israel in 1978

By WOLF BLITZER  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent  
WASHINGTON. — For the second consecutive year, the Ford Administration is proposing that Egypt receive more economic aid from the United States than Israel.

According to informed sources, the outgoing administration is recommending in the fiscal year 1978 foreign aid bill, which must be submitted to Congress before President-elect Carter's inauguration on January 20, that Egypt receive \$225m. in economic support, assistance and another \$200m. of surplus food sales.

Israel, on the other hand, is expected to receive approximately \$150m. in economic support, assistance and probably nothing in the aid programme, the sources said.

While Egypt, Israel is eligible to receive military aid from the United States, and probably will receive \$1.5 billion in military sales credits.

Israel Ambassador Simcha Dinitz, who is expected to be replaced by Secretary of State Alexander Haig last week to urge President Ford to reconsider his aid to Israel and to support a government.

increase the proposed amounts. Israel had requested some \$23.5 billion in aid — \$1.5b. in military credits and some \$22b. in economic support.

The State Department reportedly advised the President to reduce the Israel request by \$500m., but the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) suggested it be cut by \$800m. to a total of \$1.5b.

### Dinitz sees Vance on Rabin visit

WASHINGTON. — Israel Ambassador Simcha Dinitz met last week with Secretary of State-designate Cyrus Vance and discussed the possibility of a U.S. visit early next year by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, informed sources here disclosed yesterday.

Vance reportedly said that a decision by President-elect Jimmy Carter whether to extend an invitation to Rabin to visit Washington will not be affected by the fact that he heads a caretaker government.

Shortly before Ford left on vacation last week, he was reported to have accepted the OMB recommendation. This resulted in what most observers regarded as a final Israel appeal to Kissinger.

The fiscal year 1978 begins October 1, 1977, but the outgoing administration is required to present Congress with a budget for that year before mid-January. The Carter administration will be able to submit supplementary budget recommendations before Congress considers the measure.

During the current fiscal year, Egypt is receiving about \$700m. in economic support, assistance and another \$200m. in food sales. Israel this year is receiving about \$785m. in economic aid and \$1b. in military credits.

Although Israeli sources here are hoping that Ford will reverse his decision, informed American sources here said yesterday that this was unlikely. These American sources believed that the proposed budget had already been sent to the printers for publication, and that the \$1.5b. figure was inserted for Israel.



Young pilgrims stretch out in their sleeping bags outside the Church of the Nativity on Christmas Eve. See page 3. (Rahamim Yisraeli)

## Labour heads debate platform changes

Abba Eban, one of the contenders for the Labour Party's candidate for premier, said over the weekend that his party could not go to elections on the basis of the 14-point platform it used four years ago. The new government must at least be given the authority to decide on Israel's eastern border, and not have its hands tied as the present government did, Eban told the Ashdod Labour Council on Friday.

This issue was contested by one of the authors of the 14 points, however, Minister without Portfolio

Yisrael Galili. Galili said at Beit Berl on Friday that he believed the 14 points were still valid as the basic election platform, "although we might consider changing one detail or another."

Galili said the party should reiterate the government position that it is prepared to negotiate with Jordan on the basis of possible territorial concessions in Judea and Samaria — without specifying what the concessions might be.

Former premier Golda Meir — (Continued on page 3, col. 5)

## Rabin, Peres begin jockeying for top position

By ASHER WALLFISH and JOSHUA BRILLIANT  
Jerusalem Post Reporters

THE BATTLE for the top spot in the Labour Party began to shape up over the weekend, as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Defence Minister Shimon Peres engaged in consultations with prospective supporters and opponents. A source close to Peres said that the Defence Minister definitely had decided to make the race for the premiership, and would announce his decision within a few days.

Rabin, who told Israel TV that he was confident that he would gain the support of a majority of party members (see story below), invited all wings of the Labour Party to an informal consultation yesterday, to plan organization and strategy for the election campaign. Among those attending were Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz, Foreign Minister Yigal Alon, Minister without Portfolio Yisrael Galili, party Secretary-General Meir Zermi and Golda Meir — as well as Peres. The presence of Mrs. Meir at the meeting, the first of many, was seen by some observers as setting the seal on Rabin's own personal authority.

In this meeting and others, Rabin stressed that the party must concentrate on fighting the election, and not each other. The need to form Labour's election headquarters as soon as possible also was discussed, with the names of Rabinowitz, Commerce and Industry Minister Haim Bar-Lev and Jewish Agency Executive Chairman Yosef Almog suggested as the head of this unit. It is believed that Housing Minister Avraham Ofer, who reportedly wants the job, is not being favoured at this time.

Sources close to Peres told The Jerusalem Post that the Defence Minister has talked to "hundreds" of Labour Party members, asking for their support and advice on how he should conduct his campaign. Peres arranged meetings with personalities of divergent views such as Mapam's Secretary-General Meir Talmi, Jewish Agency chairman Almog, and Yitzhak Navon, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee. Observers outside Peres' orbit said he was trying to generate the impression that he was flexible and could establish a dialogue across a wide political spectrum.

Some Mapam leaders have threatened to end their alignment with Labour if Peres is nominated for the premiership. Peres met Talmi on Friday, and asked whether Mapam had made any decision on the matter. Talmi replied in the negative. Mapam is trying to keep out of Labour's internal disputes, Talmi said.

The former Rafi members in the Labour Party are expected to support Peres. MK Matilda Ghez told The Post: "We're like the muleteers, all for one and one for all." The former Abdu Ha'avoda members are expected to support Rabin. (Rabin was in the Palmach during the British Mandate. These units were closely associated with Abdu Ha'avoda.)

## Rabin not sure contest is in Labour's interest

Labour Party regulations allow "any member" to announce his candidacy for the premiership. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Friday. He added that he was "not convinced" that a challenge to his leadership "is in the interest of the party."

Interviewed on Israel TV's weekly newsmagazine, Rabin said that he was "not aware" whether Defence Minister Shimon Peres had decided to seek the top spot on the Labour Party or Alignment list in the elections, expected in May. But he was confident that he, Rabin, would gain the support of the majority, and thus be named as the party's candidate for premier.

Asked whether he would include Peres and former Foreign Minister Abba Eban in his Cabinet after the elections, Rabin said that he would "select those best suited to serve" (Continued on page 3, col. 1)



Survivors and police investigators search through the wreckage of yesterday's Egyptian plane crash in Bangkok. (UPI telephoto)

## 72 killed as Egyptair plane crashes into Bangkok hill

ANGKOK. — An Egyptian aircraft tore through a textile mill and plunged yesterday, killing all 72 people aboard and several workers.

Workers on the night shift said they heard a frightening, rending sound as the Boeing 707 struck the mill near Bangkok's Don Muang airport.

"I felt the plane was coming in from the wrong direction, hitting the mill building and living quarters," a worker said.

Another said he sensed "disaster about realising what it was and to safety with several other workers."

About 100 workers were at their machines. Mill officials said they tried about 20 of them were killed, at least 30 others were injured.

Mill officials said 100 other workers escaped death or injury because they had gone out to eat.

Victims of the disaster included a number of Thai Muslims returning from pilgrimages to Mecca.

Egyptair flight 846 began in Cairo and had stopped in Jeddah and Bombay. It was headed for Bangkok, Manila and Tokyo, carrying 43 passengers and nine crew members.

Among the dead passengers were Egyptians, Malaysians, Japanese, an Iranian, an American, a Canadian, an Australian and an Italian woman.

Airport officials would not speculate on the cause of the crash.

"Villagers living nearby said the area was shrouded in dense fog at the time of the crash, about 3 a.m. local time.

Airport fire engines and ambulances rushed to the scene about 2.4 hours from the runway. Rescue squads recovered 38 charred bodies; three of them believed to be mill workers, before suspending the rescue work.

Officials said the airline requested that the wreckage be left until its experts arrived today to join Thai authorities in investigating the crash.

Parts of the burned-out aircraft lay scattered among the textile machines and buried under iron girders. A charred jet engine stood at a crazy angle festooned with iron frames and pieces of mill machinery.

Airport control tower officials said the aircraft was given clearance to land before the crash. There was no indication that it was in distress. (Reuters)

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### Financier Flatto held

TEL AVIV. — Samuel Flatto (Sharon), the French-based financier, was arrested Friday evening by Israeli police as a result of a request for his extradition by French authorities. Flatto is wanted by the French police in connection with fraud and large-scale tax evasion.

Flatto's name has been linked in Israel with large investments in such projects as the Corporation "B" and the Dizengoff Centre. Together with the Pils family, he is one of the major backers of the Dizengoff Centre.

His name came up recently in connection with the arrest of major Israeli builder Aharon Rabinstein on suspicion of tax evasion. At that time he denied that he held any joint accounts with Aharon Rabinstein outside Israel. He also denied that he had commissioned Rabinstein to act as the contractor for a large building project in Caracas, Venezuela.

Treasury officials who were questioned about the possible repercussions of the arrest and extradition of Flatto on the Israel Corporation

"B" were reluctant to predict whether the group represented by Swiss businessman Nissim Gaon would go through with their plan to invest in the Corporation "B" is shortly expected in Israel. However, since some of the investors led by Gaon seem to prefer to become the controlling shareholders of the corporation, they may, according to Treasury sources, not be averse to seeing the present shareholders bow out.

This prediction, or speculation, by Treasury sources implied that both Aharon Rabinstein and Flatto may now be "included out" of the ICB.

Flatto's financial troubles began in August 1975, when a French magazine accused him of "extracting" several hundred million francs from investors and of tax evasion. The French Supreme Court later that year accepted Flatto's appeal against continuing proceedings against him but appointed an arbitrator to study his case and determine further action. Flatto has lived in Israel since 1970. He first came to France in 1959 as a refugee from Poland.

## Shots in Beirut mostly to celebrate Christmas

BEIRUT. — Rifle shots crackled in Beirut yesterday, but most of the shots were fired into the air to salute Christmas.

The truce in the Lebanese civil war, imposed by the mainly Syrian League peace force, was 40 hours yesterday.

It meant a traditional Christmas for the big Christian community of kind many had believed they would never enjoy again. But the five mood was tinged with grief and anxiety. The grieving was for 40,000 people killed in 20 months of fighting between rightist Christians and an alliance combining Lebanese left and the PLO Liberation Organization.

French-language newspaper summed up fears with a Christmas poem about the "o" in the word "Noel" as a time bomb with fuses splintering.

Christmas week has brought peace in the southern outskirts of Beirut, but the Palestinian faction among rival Palestinian factions, which are split over Syrian military presence in Lebanon.

(Residents of northern Israel settlements reported hearing shooting in neighbouring southern Lebanon on Friday evening. Exchanges of fire were said to have involved the villages of Kila, Nabatiya, where terrorists have been making desperate comeback attempts.)

Yesterday the peace force announced that rival civil war factions would be given no more time to comply with a plan to gather their heavy arms into arsenals supervised by the force. The people of Beirut waited to see whether this important step in bolstering the truce would be taken without bloodshed.

The Lebanese parliament on Friday gave the government powers to rule by decree in order to overcome the legacy of 20 months of civil war.

All 72 members present at the session of the 99-seat legislature voted for a bill enabling the cabinet of Prime Minister Salim al-Hoss to decree laws on subjects that include public order, the media and the war-tattered economy. (Reuters)

(The government's new powers, page 3)

### Arafat said backtracking

POST Middle East Affairs Correspondent  
Egyptian press reports over the weekend said that PLO chief Yasser Arafat has backed out on his recent "acceptance" of Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and has returned to the PLO's militant call for the establishment of a "secular state in all Palestine" — i.e., including Israel. Arafat was earlier reported to have said that he would not agree to participate in forthcoming Middle East peace negotiations at Geneva.

Observers last night viewed Arafat's militant expressions to be aimed at gaining more Arab and international attention, especially now that the PLO's political and military credibility had been shattered by the Lebanese civil war.

Meanwhile, Cairo's "Akhar al-Yom" weekly said yesterday that Syria has no intention of renewing the Golan-based UN peace force's mission (UNDOF) for another term beyond next May, unless concrete moves towards settling the Middle East conflict are made.

## Report moots selling buses, raising fares

### New proposals to finance Egged

By YITZHAK OKED  
Jerusalem Post Reporter  
TEL AVIV. — The Golomb Committee on Bus Cooperatives issued the final portion of its findings on Friday to the Transport Ministry and recommended a series of sweeping measures to improve the course of the troubled Egged cooperative, which is staggering under debts of nearly IL1 billion.

While crediting the Dan cooperative's relative financial health to efficient management, the committee came down hard on Egged's practices and policies. It recognized that some fiscal matters were beyond the company's control, but criticized Egged for unwarranted wage and benefit increases at a time when cost-cutting and efficiency measures were necessary.

The 78-page report included the following suggestions for correcting Egged's financial situation:

- Egged should sell off all of its properties, as the committee recommended in its second interim report one year ago.
- The alternative should also be explored of Egged selling all its buses to a government company, which would then lease them back to Egged at a reasonable cost.
- Egged's fares should be raised by 5 per cent (and Dan's by 5.5 per cent).
- The Transport Ministry should establish a special authority to oversee public transportation, which should be empowered to control finances and regulate service.
- The State Comptroller should include the bus companies in

its controlling programme and an auditor should be appointed to Egged in addition to that of Brit Hapikuh (the cooperative's auditing firm).

- Egged members' salaries should be divided into pay for productive work, to be equivalent to that of hired drivers with maximum seniority, and pay for self-administration of the cooperative, which should not change until Egged shows a profit.

The committee also made numerous recommendations concerning freezing the price of Egged stock, pension qualifications, voting rights within the company, and its administration.

The committee stressed its belief (Continued on page 3, col. 5)

## Double agent uncovered 'number' of Israeli spies, Egypt claims

CAIRO. — Egyptian intelligence said Friday it has uncovered "a number" of Israeli spies through an Egyptian double agent during the last eight years.

A statement did not say whether any arrests had been made.

The statement said the operation began in 1968, when Israeli agents contacted Ahmed Mohammed Abdel Rahman, 37, an Egyptian seaman. Abdel Rahman told Egyptian intelligence, which asked him to maintain contact

with the Israeli agents.

A month before the outbreak of the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war, Abdel Rahman transmitted a message to Israeli intelligence saying that Egyptian military activities at the time were only training manoeuvres, the statement claimed.

"The Israelis continued relying on information provided Abdel Rahman by the Egyptian intelligence until Tuesday," the statement said.

The statement said Egyptian intelligence signalled its Israeli counterpart Tuesday, saying: "We repeat our thanks for providing us with information leading to the uncovering of a number of your agents in Egypt and abroad." (AP)

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KIBUTZ AYLET HASHAHAR

### UK wants Geneva talks by March

CAIRO. — The British Ambassador in Cairo, Willy Morris, yesterday handed Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi a message from Foreign Secretary Anthony Crosland pledging Britain's full support to Egypt for the quick resumption of the Geneva Middle East peace conference, Foreign Ministry sources said here.

Fahmi later received Hermann Eilts, the U.S. Ambassador in Cairo, and discussed with him plans to reconvene the Geneva conference by March next year. (Reuters)

**Tourists**

THE JERUSALEM POST, in cooperation with the Moriah Hotel, Jerusalem, is pleased to invite you to the "Front Page" exhibition to be held in the lobby of the Moriah Hotel and featuring historic pages of THE JERUSALEM POST from 1948 through 1976.

On Tuesday, December 28, at 9 p.m., there will be a special showing of a documentary film, "Israel Report," dealing with The Jerusalem Post, religion, entertainment, the "Good Fence" (Israel-Lebanon), and Air Force Day. Editors of The Jerusalem Post will be present for a question and answer session.

Tourists invited, admission free.

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**THE WEATHER**

Forecast: Rain in the North spreading later over central Israel. Partly cloudy in the South.

Location	Yesterday's Humidity	Yesterday's Min-Max	Today's Min-Max
Jerusalem	57	7-14	12
Golan	57	6-12	10
Nahariya	76	8-12	17
Safed	67	8-11	9
Haifa Port	87	11-18	17
Tiberias	88	13-20	18
Nazareth	76	11-16	14
Afula	83	9-19	17
Shamun	72	10-14	12
Tel Aviv	66	12-18	17
B-G Airport	47	12-20	18
Jericho	35	11-24	21
Gaza	60	10-19	18
Beerseba	45	10-19	18
Eilat	22	27-25	22
Tiran Straits	28	8-24	22

**Social and Personal**

Police Minister Shlomo Hillel spoke on police activities at a reception given on Friday by the Editors' Committee in honour of the outgoing Inspector-General of Police, Shaul Rosolio and his successor, Haim Tabori.

**ARRIVALS**

Dr. and Mrs. Israel Goldstein, from New York, where they attended the 10th anniversary of the death of their son, arrived in Jerusalem on Friday.

**Rabin**

(Continued from page one)

as cabinet ministers in the next government. I think Peres will be included in that list."

He pointedly declined to answer whether Eban — who has indicated he also might be a candidate — would be under consideration for a ministerial post in a Rabin government. Nor did he commit himself when asked if he would serve in a government headed by Peres.

Rabin declared that he was replying "positively" to Likud leader Menahem Begin's suggestion that the two men engage in a television debate. He preferred not to answer when asked whether he would also debate heads of other lists.

"The coming elections will focus on the differences, the confrontation between the Alignment and the Likud," he said. Because he felt it was "difficult to estimate the number of lists which will compete in the elections," he said he could not commit himself to a debate with Prof. Yigael Yadin of the Democratic Movement for Change, or leaders of other lists.

He repeated his previous statements on the legal status of a transition or caretaker government, which he said "is a government for all intents and purposes." As such, it could attend a Geneva Middle East conference, he emphasized. He said that it would be a "grave mistake" for Israel to even create "an impression that Israel hesitates to attend the Geneva conference, if (it is) convened on terms acceptable to Israel."

Rabin emphasized that Israel's current foreign policy is "one agreed upon by a Knesset majority." The coalition crisis occurred, he said, "over the principle of collective responsibility, and not over Israel's foreign policy or its aims."

**Order nisi granted  
NRP ministers may  
still be in Cabinet**

Yitzhak Rabin's transition government, which will serve until the elections, may turn out to include not only the two Independent Liberal ministers but even the three National Religious Party ministers.

This possibility emerged on Friday after Justice Haim Cohn issued orders nisi requiring both the Government and the NRP ministers to show cause within five days why they should not continue to serve in the Government.

Justice Cohn also issued an order nisi against the two ILP ministers which was requested, as anticipated, by Attorney-General Aharon Barak. They were given seven days in which to respond, but it is expected all three cases will be heard together.

The order pertaining to the NRP ministers was requested by Zalman Segal, a lawyer, who stated in his petition that he voted for the NRP in the last elections and that in connection with his law practice he required the services of the Ministers of Interior, Religious Affairs, and Social Welfare (the three ministries that had been headed by the NRP ministers).

Through his attorney, Ram Caspi, Segal argued that the resignation-dismissal of the NRP ministers did not take effect until midnight of the day (last Monday) on which the Prime Minister announced the fact in the Knesset.

But 45 minutes before midnight, the Prime Minister informed President Katzir of his resignation, which automatically turned the Government into a transition government.

And since the law does not permit any minister to resign from a transition government, the NRP ministers must still be regarded as members of the Government, Segal maintained.

The petitioner called it "inconceivable" that the duties of a minister should terminate at the very moment the Prime Minister makes his announcement in the Knesset, and that after that he is even barred from signing documents that have been prepared for his signature.

The Attorney-General argued in his petition, as expected, that although the two ILP ministers, Kol and Hausner, had submitted their resignations last Monday before Rabin submitted his resignation to the President, the resignation of a minister takes effect only 48 hours after its submission. In that period, in fact, he can even withdraw his resignation. Hence, their resignations were nullified by that of Mr. Rabin.

Prof. Barak further asserted that the aim of the legislation was to freeze the composition of a departmental Government. If Kol and Hausner were deemed to have resigned, the legislation's intention would be frustrated and law emptied of all content.

Kol and Hausner will not attend today's Cabinet meeting — at which Justice Minister Haim Zadok will review the pending High Court orders.

The radio reported last night that the two ILP Ministers hoped to reply to the order nisi "within two days."

**Yadin would join any bloc  
backing electoral change**

TEL AVIV. — Prof. Yigael Yadin, head of the Democratic Movement for Change, said on Friday that if Likud leader Menahem Begin came out in favour of constituency elections he saw no reason for not joining a government coalition with him.

Yadin was speaking at the weekly luncheon meeting of the Commercial and Industrial Club. He had been asked whether his movement would join forces after the elections with the Left or the Right. He said he would be willing to join either major bloc, if it committed itself to electoral reform.

Israel's basic problems were not security and foreign policy, "but the problems of the nation in Israel," he said. It was because it had failed to understand this that the Rabin Government had fallen, Yadin said.

He declared that both Rabin and Begin were quite mistaken if they thought that Israel's cardinal problem was peace or no peace. The real problem was the absence of authority and the absence of leadership.

"Where there is no vision, the people can only react," he quoted from Proverbs, adding that the nation had lost the ideals that had once been its guiding light. He followed this with quotations from Judges: "Every man did that which was right in his eyes" — the explanation for that being given in the first half of the verse: "In those days there was no king in Israel."

It would be cheap demagoguery, however, to blame the present leadership for everything. The country's electoral system was the least democratic of any used in enlightened countries, Yadin said.

**Hausner: Cabinet crisis  
was 'premeditated'**

Jerusalem Post Staff

TEL AVIV. — Independent Liberal Party leader Gideon Hausner accused Prime Minister Rabin of "premeditating" the cabinet crisis which caused the Government's resignation.

Speaking on television on Friday, Hausner said that Rabin had carefully planned the scenario that followed the dismissal of the NRP ministers. Asked if the ILP feels bitter about Rabin's allegedly planned crisis, Hausner said that after so many years of partnership with the ILP "Rabin should have made us party to the secret and given us 48 hours so that we (Hausner and Tourism Minister Moshe Kol) could resign."

Likud leader Menahem Begin, speaking on the radio yesterday, repeated his demand that the caretaker government of Prime Minister Rabin make no major decision on the diplomatic front. He said again that Rabin should not proceed with his planned trip to the U.S. because such a trip would include a meeting with President Carter could be used as psychological pressure on the voter. He added that Rabin should not plan the trip yet since "it is not certain" that he would be the Prime Minister in the months before the elections.

Simcha Erlich, another Likud leader speaking on the same radio programme, said that the Likud is fully prepared for elections in May. He said that the Likud elections platform would be ready for publication within four to six weeks.

Reacting to the appearance of the new parties, Erlich said that the new lists including that of Ariel Sharon, would be no more than a counterweight that would give the Alignment a chance to form a coalition without the NRP. Voting for the small lists, Erlich said, would be "the same as voting for the Alignment... But for those who want a real change in government the only possibility is the Likud."

Mapam also reacted to the new personalities on the political scene with a charge by its political secretary, Naftali Feder, that the new lists debate no real issues, and are concerned only with personal power struggles.

Feder warned that the public's mood would drive it to the new centre parties which would grab many votes from both the Alignment and the Likud. He said the Alignment could win the elections only if it could gain the electorate's confidence as "a Zionist Socialist party prepared for daring peace initiatives based on a realistic approach to the situation in the Middle East and the world."

Ariel Sharon, one of the new faces referred to by the established party leaders, spoke at a question-and-answer meeting at the Haifa engineers forum on Friday.

Asked on an alliance between the Shomzion movement which he had founded, and the other new lists, Sharon said "it is our historic task to bring down the established system, both the Alignment and Likud... I am ready to join anybody else for that aim and reject no one who agrees on the need to change the structure of government, and is willing to work for more democracy in our political life and an effort toward a settlement with the Arabs that safeguards Israel's security."

**Gaddafi stung for \$75m. in arms 'deal'**

By JACK MAURICE  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

PARIS. — Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi is the victim of a \$75m. swindle by bogus French arms salesman who exploited his impatience to obtain the U.S. weapons which helped Israel win the Yom Kippur War.

The authors of this "sting" are alleged to be Jean Abatucci, an employee of the French Thomson-C.S.F. missile firm, and two executives of a fly-by-night export-import firm, Georges Starckmann and Claude Dumont. They have been charged here with infringing French currency laws.

Magistrates handling the case are amazed — and amused — by the nerve with which the trio conned Gaddafi into believing they could supply top secret U.S. arms.

The first deal, which was worth \$15m. to the trio, focused on the sale of the "Startron," the optical device which enables tank commanders to detect enemy units 600 metres away on darkest nights.

Libyan attempts to obtain deliveries of Startrons from the U.S. through Thomson-C.S.F. failed. But Abatucci said he could obtain supplies elsewhere.

Abatucci's supplier was a suburban Paris metal works from which he and his accomplices ordered 3,000 crude optical tubes for \$90,000.

After accepting payment of \$15m. for these tubes, the trio shipped them to Spain. For some reason, the consignment was sent back to Paris and has since been held by customs at Orly Airport.

With astonishing glibness, the "arms" dealers then sued the manufacturer for supplying them with Startrons which did not meet their specifications.

Meanwhile, the Libyans placed a second order for 15,000 and 175mm cannons worth \$152m., of which 60 per cent was transferred to Zurich bank as a down payment.

French officials believe the total sum extracted by the trio could exceed the \$75m. paid by Gaddafi for these two contracts.

Starckmann, the brains behind the "sting," is a 49-year-old son of a grocer who was fined \$800,000 20 years ago by a French court for a textile export fraud. Since then he has been involved in arms deals with Africa on behalf of Dutch interests.

Starckmann is also reported to operate a profitable concern which sells pornographic video tapes.

Dumont is Bolivia's consul in France. After a political career as a senator for Algeria while it was under French rule, he played an active role in the O.A.S. terror movement which opposed independence for Algeria.

French officials believe the fraud was also perpetrated by Libyan officials close to Gaddafi, who has ordered a wide-ranging purge of his entourage following disclosure of the scandal.



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**Meshel to  
run again**

Yeruham Meshel announced yesterday that he is a candidate for re-election as Histadrut secretary-general. He was speaking on the radio's news magazine.

He added that the Labour Party candidate for Histadrut secretary-general would be nominated by the party's Leadership Bureau and its Histadrut faction, with the central committee making the final decision.

Commenting on Golda Meir's recent criticism of him for following a policy in the Histadrut at variance with his party's policy in the Government, Meshel said: "I don't know what they expect of me. After all, I represent the Histadrut, and I think that I am representing the party faithfully."

**No importance seen in  
two border incidents**

By HIRSH GOODMAN  
Jerusalem Post Military Correspondent

No great importance is attached to two isolated terror incidents from across the borders early Friday morning, military observers say.

The first incident occurred shortly after midnight Thursday, when a solitary Katyusha rocket was fired at a Border Police patrol near kibbutz Neve Ur from across the Jordan border. There was no damage caused, and fire was not returned by the patrol.

Later, about 6.30 a.m., in an unrelated incident, a lone bazooka shell was fired at an army patrol near Zarit, on the Lebanese border. Here again no damage was caused, and fire was not returned.

Despite the fact that this was the first incident of terrorist activity from Lebanon since November 21, when several Katyusha rockets were fired at Nahariya, observers said they believed the incident to be an isolated one and not related to organized terrorist activity from southern Lebanon. They also noted that there has been no terrorist build-up in the south and that the number of terrorists there has remained constant.

The incident at Neve Ur was the first on the Jordanian front since May. Observers said last night that there was a distinct possibility that the Katyushas had been fired by terrorists who had infiltrated into Jordan from Syria. Neve Ur is very close to the Jordanian border, and is situated about half way between Beit She'an and Tiberias.



With the Mediterranean as smooth as glass in the balmy December sunshine, these young fishermen try their luck off the Tel Aviv shore. They are standing on a former sewage pipe which emptied the city's wastes into the sea.

**Fish eaters needn't worry**

HAIFA. — The mercury content of Israeli sea fish is well below the strict U.S. standard of five parts per million, and there is no danger from eating local fish.

Ernst Groff, the director of the Fishing Technology Unit in the Agriculture Ministry, said this to The Jerusalem Post on Friday following the showing on Israel TV of a documentary on mercury poisoning of the residents of a Japanese coastal village in 1971.

Groff stressed that Israel abides by the strict U.S. standard, though sea fish consumption is not very high in this country.

He said that food laboratories at the Technion had recently tested all the major types of fish caught and marketed in Israel. All were found to be well below the U.S. standard, he reported.

He added that the Government also maintains strict mercury standards for imported tuna for smoking and canning, and allows their import only from sources where no mercury danger exists, though this raises the price. He believes this stringent measure is unnecessary because the amount of tuna Israelis eat is relatively low compared to countries like the U.S.

**LABOUR**

(Continued from page one)

who backs Yitzhak Rabin for premier — and Justice Minister Haim Zadok have also said there is no need to change the 14 points. Moshe Dayan, MK, is also against spelling out Israel's willingness for territorial concessions on the grounds that the U.S. will pressure Israel into giving up any territory it is prepared to give up, without anything in return.

Health Minister Victor Shemtov (Mapam), however, dismissed as "absurd" Dayan's idea that the next government — after the election — should hold a referendum on giving up territory in Judea and Samaria. He told Israel Radio yesterday that the question of territorial concessions on the West Bank should be included in the issues of the upcoming election.

Shemtov also said the present caretaker government should do everything in its power to reconvene the Geneva Middle East conference as soon as possible. That way, he said, the government could present the nation with significant political developments on the eve of the election (to be held in May) and ask for a mandate to continue the process after the election.

Premier Rabin also made the point (see separate story, this page) that his caretaker government would not hesitate to go to Geneva before the election, but did not imply that he would press for it at this point.

Gallil noted that Rabin should not cancel his plans to go to Washington before the election, just because he is a caretaker government. He echoed Rabin's own remarks that Israel's internal crisis could not be allowed to create a political vacuum abroad in which only the Arab voices would be heard.

Eban, in his address, said the problem inside the Labour Party was not whether there would be a fight over the premiership, but whether the party would be capable of working together as a team after that confrontation.

"Even before the crisis with the National Religious Party," he said, "Cabinet ministers at the weekly meetings each played their own instruments, oblivious to the conductor, and then walked out when they were finished."

Saying he was not afraid to take on Rabin and Peres for the nomination, Eban said they were, after all, "not Churchill, de Gaulle or Metternich." He added that, if the party didn't want him, he had other things to do. But he would not join another party.

**Police pay up from October 1976**

Jerusalem Post Reporter

ACRE. — Police will get higher pay, effective from October this year, of from IL400 to IL700 a month, Police Minister Shlomo Hillel and his director-general Menahem Fogelman announced at a press conference on Friday.

A new wage table is now being prepared at the Ministry based on the professional qualifications and roles of police personnel, to go into effect in mid-1977, they added.

At the dedication of the new policemen's club here, the Minister said the force was now recruiting 200 men a month, against a decrease of 80 a month due to retirements or resignations. The latter were due not to dissatisfaction with the pay rates, he pointed out, but to the inability of the men to adjust to the force, after one to three years.

The new club was set up at the police station here and is regarded as the best equipped in the country. The national chairman of the Public Committee for the Police, Mordechai Surdick, said this was the 34th club in the country, the third in Galilee, and that the aim was to open one at every police station.

**New proposals for Egged**

(Continued from page one)

that the Government should not give Egged grants, but should only guarantee credit, which should be on regular bank terms.

It added that if current deficits are erased at one stroke, the essential problems of Egged would still not be solved, and deficits would immediately begin to accumulate again.

The committee recognized that it would take some time before its proposals could be implemented. It proposed that the Transport Ministry give each of its findings a time-table for implementation, with proper financing arranged for each step.

Transport Minister Gad Ya'acobi received the report on Friday and held a discussion with committee members immediately afterwards. He thanked the members for their efforts and suggested that they may be recalled in the future if problems arose or if there were a need to interpret portions of the report.

Ya'acobi also revealed that he was immediately implementing one of the committee's suggestions by appointing someone in his ministry to act as a coordinator of public transport.

Egged and Dan officials also received copies of the report, but withheld comment until after it could be studied in detail. Egged has already indicated opposition to portions of the report, which were leaked to the press two months ago.

The findings will now be brought before the Ministerial Economic Committee and the Knesset Finance Committee.

The Colombo Committee was set up under chairman David Colombo in 1974 to resolve the financial ills of the bus cooperatives. Its first interim findings were filed in February 1975 and recommended ways to decide on the price of bus tickets. The second report came in December 1975 and dealt with the subsidiary companies of Egged. In April 1976 it issued an interim report, dealing with Egged's financial problems and calling on Egged to sell its property. In the wake of the interim report a bus strike broke out.

(Leader, back page.)

**IN BRIEF**

**Ex-mayor of Hebron  
invited to Amman**

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The former mayor of Hebron, Sheikh Mohammed Ali Jabari, scheduled to leave for Amman tomorrow on his first visit to Jordan since the 1967 war.

Jabari was invited to Amman by King Hussein's uncle, Nasser H. Jamil, in a reported move for reconciliation between Jabari and the Jordanian monarch. Jabari had sharply criticized Hussein's having Egypt's late President Nasser's body buried in Hebron.

Previously, however, Jabari had been advocating reuniting the West Bank with Jordan rather than rallying it behind the Palestine Liberation Organization.

**Druse want safe seat  
on Labour Knesset list**

HAIFA. — A demand that the Labour Party include a Druse member of the Israeli Druse community in a "safe place" in the Labour list for the Ninth Knesset was issued by the President's adviser for minority affairs, Kam Mansour.

Mansour said last week that it is now ripe for Labour to put the veracity of its oft-repeated statements on the need to integrate Druse into Israeli political life. Inclusion of a Druse member in Labour's list would be proof of Labour's determination to keep its promises, said.

**Pollak keeps nat'l  
table tennis title**

Jerusalem Post Sports Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Seventeen-year-old schoolboy Pollak last night retained his title as national table tennis champion after a closely-fought 3-1 victory over Joseph Azulay, a 31-year-old soldier, at the Beit Hahof in Afeke.

The powerful attacking play of Tzafon Macabi star was a shot too good for the Holon Hap counterattacker. Pollak won 23:22, 23:21, 21:16. In the crucial third game, Azulay led, 26:16, or to drop four vital points in a 17-point game.

Fifteen-year-old Iris Karni Tzafon Macabi won the women's title, beating Russian immigrant Rosa Zloberman of Lod Hapoel, 27:21, 19:19, in the final.

**Grain ship released  
after pact signing**

HAIFA. — The Maritime Union allowed the 60,000-ton Liberian flag grain-carrier Struma, to sail after a noon on Friday after holding her up walked for nearly 24 hours. This followed the signing of an agreement with the local representatives of Mediterranean owners, who undertook to honour the old English standard of the standard International Federation of Shipowners' Workmen's contract.

The owners also undertook to settle any back pay that may be due to their mainly Chinese 40-man crew. The delay of the ship by the U.M. made it impossible to continue charging grain imports from the to the Dagon silo, and caused considerable losses.

**Bicentennial panel**

The Hebrew University included its Conference on the American Bicentennial on Thursday, a session devoted to "The U.S. and the World Community," and chaired by Abba Eban, MK.

Speakers at the standard International Federation of Shipowners' Workmen's contract.

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**New Rothschild scion**

TEL AVIV. — A son was born midnight Thursday to Nili (Eden) and Nathaniel de Rothschild, at Suta Hospital here. The child, grandfather, Baron Elie de Rothschild, is expected to come for his first mile. The maternal grandfather is Mordechai Limon, former Navy and former head of Israel Defence Purchasing Mission France.

Nili de Rothschild came here from France last month so that her husband would be born a scion.

**Mrs. L.L. Kenen dies**

WASHINGTON. — Mrs. L.L. Kenen, wife of the honorary chairman of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, died on Friday after a long illness. She was 81.

Mrs. Kenen, active in civic affairs here, was well-known to local Jewish community as a frequent hostess. She often entertained visiting Israeli diplomats.

**Stolen jewels found**

HAIFA. — The police have recovered IL200,000 worth of jewels stolen by burglary from the Carmel home of Yosef Cohen 6 weeks ago. Three young men, of whom Carmel residents were alerted on suspicion of having carried out the burglary, were found with a revolver, was found Thursday under the floor tiles the home of one of the suspects.

THE 12th INTERNATIONAL comprehensive regional development planning opened Tuesday at Rananan. Weizman Study Centre at Rehovot, with students from Nepal, Jam Liberia, Thailand and Korea is part in the ten-month program.

The unveiling of the tombstone of our beloved

**VERA REBECCA**

will take place at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 29, at Har Hamezuzot, Jerusalem.

We will meet at the gate.

In the name of the family  
Henry Jacobs

To our colleague

**Anita Segal**

We share your grief on the passing of your beloved

**MOTHER**

Management and Staff of  
Travex Ltd.  
Jerusalem-Tel Aviv

On the first anniversary of the death of

**MIKE MICHAEL BAKER**

We will visit his graveside and honour his memory tomorrow, Monday, December 27, 1976, at 3.30 p.m. at the cemetery, Neot Mordechai.

The Family  
and  
Kibbutz Neot Mordechai

We mourn the loss of our director

**LOUIS H. BOYAR**

and extend deep condolences to the family.

The Board and Management of  
**Electrochemical Industries**  
(Frutarom Ltd.)  
Acre, Israel

There will be a memorial service and unveiling of the tombstone for our beloved

**OTTO ARIE NEUMANN**

on Monday, December 27, 1976, at 3 p.m. at the Kiryat Shaul cemetery. We shall meet at the gate.

The Family



Wizo head Raya Jaglom says Almogi unsuited for job

## 'Dayan as WZO president, Dulzin chairman'

By JUDY SIEGEL  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Raya Jaglom, the world president of WIZO and a member of the Zionist Executive, has proposed Moshe Dayan as president of the World Zionist Organization and Arye Dulzin as chairman of the Jewish Agency and Zionist Executives.

Mrs. Jaglom told The Jerusalem Post on Friday that she makes her suggestion for the good of aliyah and the Jewish world. "WIZO is not a political organization," she insisted. The current occupant of the chairman's seat — Yosef Almogi — has not proved suitable for the job, she said. At the recent Agency meetings in London last

month, Almogi did not make a good impression. "He wasn't very active and didn't lead the discussions. I don't know why," she added that previous Executive chairmen — Arye Louis Pincus, Shlomo Saphir and Arye Dulzin (who was twice acting chairman after Pincus and Saphir died) provided much more leadership at such meetings. "Pincus was a dynamo as chairman; Saphir was very active in matters involving aliyah and finances; and Dulzin is very interested in everything."

The office of WZO president, which was discontinued years ago, should be reactivated, Dayan, she said, is ready to take the job if his party supports him. The Executive chairman should attend to administration of the de-

partments and their very important work," Mrs. Jaglom maintained. "The president must be an impressive figure who challenges world Jewry with the idea of aliyah. Aliyah will be a major topic for discussion at the 17th international conference of WIZO opening on January 9 in Jerusalem."

Mrs. Jaglom said she "understands that letters of support from Jewish leaders in the Diaspora were requested by the Jewish Agency," following criticism recently by Knesset members and the press of Almogi's performance in office. She rejects Almogi's argument that it takes him "two or three years" until he feels comfortable in a job. "Getting to know the WZO and the Agency shouldn't take a year," she said. If Almogi remains in office

## Broadcasting strike ended by Christmas

By AARON SITTNER  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Radio and television broadcasting returned to normal Friday afternoon after a day-and-a-half of disruptions caused by transmission engineers leaving their posts. Fearing the work action would bar transmission of the annual Christmas Eve mass from Bethlehem, Communications Minister Aharon Uzan on Friday morning issued the engineers back-to-work orders.

By 1:50 p.m. normal operation was resumed on Radio's Third Programme, on two frequency locations of the Second and Third Programmes, and on three UHF television channels which had been blanked out — 27 in Tel Aviv, 56 in Jerusalem and 5 in Givatayim.

The labour dispute began last Wednesday, when leaders of the Tel Aviv and Central region transmission engineers said they no longer wanted to be represented at wage negotiations by the Histadrut's Civil Servants Union. They insisted that the Technicians Union — also a Histadrut unit — speak for them.

Realising this was an intra-Histadrut dispute, the Director-General of the Communications Ministry, Moshe Gidron, appealed to the workers to stay on their jobs until the Histadrut decides the matter.

The transmission engineers refused, and began their disruptions on Thursday by calling the workers off their jobs for "discussion meetings" during working hours.

When no word of a possible solution to the impasse was received from the Histadrut's trade union department by Friday morning, fears of cancelling the Christmas Mass telecasts heightened at the Ministry. The transmission engineer in control of satellite transmission at the Emeq Ha'elah satellite ground station happens to be represented by the Tel Aviv central region workers committee.

A Ministry official told The Jerusalem Post last night, "Tension began to mount at about 9 a.m. when we realized the entire Christian world could miss the Bethlehem rites because of a power struggle between two rival unions within the Histadrut. So at about 10 a.m. it was recommended to Mr. Uzan that he issue back-to-work orders. He did so."

"Within an hour or so after the orders were handed to the workers, they requested a meeting with Director-General Gidron. A full understanding was almost immediately reached between management and the workers committee. Management was given to understand that all decisions taken by the Civil Servants Union on behalf of the transmission engineers, in negotiating sessions to date, are valid. As for representation in the future, only the Histadrut Executive will have the authority to decide if there shall be a change."

Impression that Meroz was being backed by Jerusalem. But the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem said last night that the criticism of Meroz was "without foundation" and that all action taken by Meroz concerning DIG was "on instructions from Jerusalem."

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported from Bonn last week that Fischer, in a personal letter to Heinz Westphal, president of the association, asserted that the Israel Embassy "apparently reasons that its demands went too far" in reference to the alleged call for Bernstein's dismissal.

Fischer wrote that "this (demand) certainly exceeds what an embassy can and should require from a German association."

Diplomatic observers in Jerusalem told The Jerusalem Post last night that a small but very vocal group in DIG which reflected marginal and New Left views was trying to dominate the association and was spreading more time telling Israel how to talk to Yasser Arafat than promoting amity between the German and Israeli peoples.

This group sent a delegation to Israel two months ago, and the delegation devoted most of its visit to interviewing New Left elements in Israel. Members of the delegation at a public meeting in Tel Aviv, expressed sharply hostile opinions and one man even asked why "Jews who were hounded by the Nazis in Europe" came here to hound the Arabs in their turn.

Ze'ev Shek, deputy director-general of the Foreign Ministry responsible for Western Europe, was reportedly dismayed when he heard of this incident, and said to his colleagues: "I did not get out of Auschwitz alive to hear such vile remarks."

Jerusalem says that it had no idea of Ambassador Per Fischer's views about Yohanan Meroz before Fischer wrote to Westphal. The feeling here is that Fischer put his foot in it and behaved in a manner not consonant with diplomatic procedure, but there is no intention of making a public complaint.

Jerusalem is certain that the silent majority in the association will overcome the strident minority, whose activities should be seen in their correct proportion.

## Experts worried about recession

Jerusalem Post Economic Reporter

With the publication of the latest figures on the drop in private consumption, some economists are worried that the drop may herald a recession in the economy.

According to the figures of the Central Bureau of Statistics, private consumption dropped by one per cent in the six months from April to September 1976, compared to the figures for the same period a year ago, and now stands at the level it was before the Yom Kippur War.

The fall in consumption was especially sharp in durable goods. Purchases of household goods such as refrigerators, television sets and washing machines fell by 21 per cent in these six

months — the equivalent of an annual drop of 38 per cent.

While the overall figures for private consumption in the first nine months of 1976 are some 4.5 per cent higher than the year before, economists said the rise was caused by a spurge of buying in the last quarter of 1975. Considering the drop between April and September, the Central Bureau of Statistics predicts that private consumption will rise by only 2-3 per cent this year.

The data on wages recently published by the Central Bureau of Statistics corroborate the signs of stagnation: Average wages rose by two per cent in real terms during the first nine months of 1976. (While nominal

wages increased by 31 per cent, the cost of living went up by 29 per cent, thus leaving a real rise of two per cent.) But the salaries of civil servants fell by about six per cent in real money during this period, while workers in personal services, construction, commerce and financial services got a hefty rise of 6 to 10 per cent.

The latest figures point to the same trend as those published earlier on the rise in unemployment. If these trends continue the economy may enter into a period of recession. The decline in consumption was particularly noticeable in the third quarter of this year, dropping 7 per cent — which in annual terms means a fall of 25 per cent.

## Stamp collectors needed

STAMPS have been turning up at The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund HQ.

ever since we wrote our story about Julius Kahn of Neve Arav, who sent us a terrific collection. What has arrived since is a neat packet of U.S. stamps from Kurt Suchsbaum of Kibbutz Hatzor, as well as a not-so-neat U.S. collection from an unidentified source; South African ones from young Arnold Kruger of Netanya and Norwegian ones from Aabjourn Hernes of Halden, Norway, now in Eilat.

Now the Toy Fund is not always able to find collectors as was the case with Beit Pomeranz in Jerusalem, where they were ready to start Stamp Club activities. But we will try to find the right places for this batch too.

Also in last week was the regular contribution of the Jerusalem Sports

Hygiene shop. Footballs and football equipment to make a starting team of footballers happy.

Friday's contribution came to IL1,396.90, bringing the total so far to IL205,696.73. Our list of contributors includes:

\$25 In memory of Norman Hahn — from Sam and Edith Wessner, Maribor, Slovenia. In honour of the birth of Ziona Yehonatan Kono — by Alian, Barry and Jonathan Kono, from New Westminster, Canada. \$1200 Michal and Ariel Dagan, New York.

\$15 In memory of my beloved parents, Elyahu and Simlami Holland, who lived and died in Ra'anana, and in memory of my dear brother Shlomo Holland of Haifa and my dear brother Lev Holland of Ra'anana. \$1000 in memory of Raviv Kibbutz, Ra'anana — Alan and Lily Kanter, Evanston, Ill.

\$10 In deep gratitude to Israel for the care of our daughter and her husband from Eilat (Janet and Ezra Almog, Kibbutz Ein Dor) — Frances and Willy Zentner (11 years old), Winnipeg, Manitoba — out of my own savings. IL1 Always remembering Doris Levav of Kiryat Haneset — Fred and Evelyn Pauker.

## Top award to Jlem Symphony

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra will receive the Israel Broadcasting Authority's main award, the IL4,500 Director-General's Prize, at a presentation ceremony today at the Israel Museum.

The orchestra will be honoured for the quality of its performances, its creative originality and its role in furthering the understanding of modern music.

The controversial, now-defunct satirical programme, "Cleaning the Head," was selected as topping the year's entertainment fare on television, while the prize for documentaries will be shared by "This is Your Life" on Avigdor Kahalani, directed by Amos Ettinger, and

Shimon Yekutieli's programme, "Since last Yom Kippur." Other prize-winners in television include Zvi Goren's ballet, "The Sun Rises and the Sun Sets," and the youth programme of Dalia Roz, "Ritch-Ratch."

Prizes for the best in radio include Amikam Rotman's "The Small Hour," which splits the award for documentaries with the Army Radio's "Jews of the Forest."

The entertainment award goes to two programmes: "The Arabic language" "Ulan No. 6," edited by Yitzhak Ben-Ovadia, and the offering by Dalia Orman, Uri Zohar and Netiva Avivi, "How to Sneeze in Japanese."

## 'Kiryat Shmona's water is fine'

KIRYAT SHMONA. — The town's drinking water is fit for consumption and has not been polluted by sewage, Mekorot claimed last week.

The water company experts took five samples for analysis at their central laboratory and gave them a clean bill.

This followed a warning to residents by the Health Ministry not to use drinking water before they boil it, for fear that pollutants had penetrated the water supply as a result of the bursting of a pipe near the well which supplies most of the city's water.

## LETTER FROM LONDON

## Fight now on for Labour's soul

LONDON. — The fight is now on for the soul of the British Labour Party. It may well decide the future of the government of this country.

Israelis will be only too familiar with the political scenario where the ideological fight is identified and polarized by personalities. We see a beleaguered Labour government, besieged by a highly vocal opposition and trying to save the economy, finding itself under attack from its own party headquarters. The Left-dominated national executive, having condemned the government's economic programme and organized the biggest anti-government demonstration ever seen here, has now appointed a declared Trotskyist as head of the party's youth division with a salary of £4,000 a year.

The executive did so despite a personal appeal from Premier Callaghan not to choose the man, which was yet another slap in the party leader's face. Thus the public is again presented with the image of a ruling party led by very moderate politicians, who heads a cabinet of pragmatists, but who is being constantly challenged by a party organization and executive in the hands of extremists.

No wonder that the latest Gallup poll shows the Conservatives enjoying 49.5 per cent of the votes as compared to Labour's 34 per cent, and Callaghan only enjoying popularity with 35 per cent of the voters.

Thus if an election were held today, Labour would most probably get swept away.

Already the Conservatives are making maximum political use of the leftward drift of the ruling party. Quite a storm erupted recently when Tory MP, Ian Sproat, accused a Labour MP of "providing a Trojan horse for alien political creeds" by their support of ultra-left causes.

As if Callaghan and his moderate allies did not have enough on their hands with challenges from the left, they got a blow from the right when Reginald Prentice resigned this week as Overseas Development Minister.

The British Labour Party has been a coalition of differing Socialist factions for many years and, as former Premier Sir Harold Wilson proudly noted in his recent Jerusalem Post interview, his greatest success was in leaving a united party behind him. Callaghan has to pursue the same balancing act between the factions as Wilson so successfully did.

But the crucial question is whether the left-wing will play the game by the same rules. One indication is the latest move from inside the party executive to alter the rules of choosing the party leader. The ascendancy of the left worries Callaghan and his supporters, who are

fully aware that this could well cost them the next elections. They are warning the big trade unions who control the bloc votes in the party that by tolerating further left-wing inroads they are becoming like the young lady who took a ride on the back of the tiger.

It is speculated that current government measures will not solve Britain's economic troubles and that a further Sterling crisis may come within the next half year, leading to Labour falling from power. It is speculated anew that Henry G. Secretary Anthony Wedgwood-Benn and his supporters would not grieve overmuch if that happened. Benn's enemies continue to charge that he is planning to take over the party leadership once it falls entirely into leftist hands when Labour is back on the opposition benches. They see Benn aiming at becoming a latter-day Aneurin Bevan, of focusing in his person a backbench rebellion against the party leadership. One indication mentioned widely is Benn's vote for the young Trotskyist as party youth organizer, despite Callaghan's advice against, when the party executive last met. Moreover, Benn was the only Minister to ignore the Premier's message. Indeed, Benn argued that the Labour Party had room for ultra-Marxists alongside Social Democrats.

Benn has profited from the widespread resentment that the International Monetary Fund, and not an elected leadership, should decide economic matters. Even Socialists have difficulty in conceding the decline in British power and wealth. Perhaps that explains why this most civilized of societies does not enjoy the kind of leadership that will tell the nation how properly to adjust to the painful realities of the 1970s.

## STAMP CENTRE

is expecting you to visit. You will certainly be impressed!

Tel Aviv, 94 Allenby Road (Basement)  
Tel. 615755, P.O.B. 4444, Tel Aviv.

## Christmas comes up bright and balmy Pilgrims converge on Bethlehem

By HAIM SHAPIRO  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Bright sunshine and a balmy day favoured the thousands of Christian pilgrims and visitors who converged on Bethlehem today and Friday for the Christmas celebrations.

Jerusalem seemed to have been to heart an appeal by Tourism Minister Moshe Kol to stay away from the overcrowded town and leave room for the visitors, many of whom came specially for the holiday. With the exception of TV crewmen and security forces, there were few Jews to be seen.

The security forces, including local policemen, police reserves from elsewhere in the country and soldiers, ringed Manger Square, searching everyone who entered. At the outskirts to the town, policemen checked the special entry permits issued to visitors, causing long lines of cars, taxis and buses.

The ceremonies opened in Bethlehem on Friday afternoon as Latin Patriarch Giacomo Beltritti led a procession from Jerusalem to the Church of the Nativity. The police band and a local band played in the square as a crowd of several thousands awaited his arrival.

The Patriarch was preceded by a large contingent of Franciscan monks, local dignitaries and choirboys dressed in red and black robes. Christian boys and girls lined up on either side of the route to form a guard of honour. Scout drummers and bugle corps beat out a frenzied oriental rhythm as the Patriarch approached.

Protected from the eager crowd by a double cordon of police and soldiers, the Patriarch made his way into the Church of the Nativity through the main entrance. From there he continued on to the adjoining Roman Catholic St. Catherine's Church, where he participated in the first of the pre-Christmas prayers.

On Friday evening the crowd in Manger Square was entertained by 12 choirs and orchestras, including monks from abroad. Cafe and restaurant owners did a brisk business in beer, coffee, shishlik and fetele for the festive crowd. In addition to the more staid religious pilgrims, scores of young foreigners, many of them volunteers at kibbutzim, crowded into the square. Many of the young people

came with sleeping bags in which they spent the night outside. The climax of the evening was the midnight High Pontifical Mass, conducted by the Patriarch. Thousands of visitors who could not get into the church watched the mass on a large closed circuit TV screen in the square. Many of those who could not attend the midnight service attended one of the many masses celebrated in the grotto of the Nativity that night and yesterday.

All day yesterday Bethlehem retained a festive atmosphere as visitors poured in to visit the traditional birthplace of Jesus or merely to view the celebrations. Several thousand Jews, Arabs and 3,000 visitors from abroad also visited Nazareth on Friday night. Most church services there were held at 9 p.m. rather than midnight.

A reception was held by the Nazareth municipality at a local cinema. The Tourism Ministry broadcast carols and religious music in the streets of the Galilee town and gave away Christmas postcards.

Christmas was also celebrated by the Public Committee for Lebanese War Victims. The groups distributed food packages to Christian villagers living near the "Good Fence." The packages contained rice, sugar, coffee, tinned goods and milk powder.

The committee also arranged for 25 villagers to visit Bethlehem for the holiday.

Shelia Melzer adds from Eilat: Christmas day in Eilat was marked by blue skies and warm sunshine. With all hotels fully booked, the main event was a local cinema. The Tourism Ministry broadcast carols and religious music in the streets of the Galilee town and gave away Christmas postcards.

They sunbathed, swam, ate, drank, danced, sang and finished half a ton of oranges, a Christmas gift from the Israel Citrus Marketing Board. The tourists were mostly Scandinavian, English, French and German.

## Jerusalem, Bonn at odds over friendship society

Jerusalem Post Staff

The West German Ambassador in Tel Aviv, the Israel Ambassador in Bonn, the German-Israel Friendship Association, and the Israel Foreign Ministry are involved in a four-way tug-of-war which has few precedents in the diplomatic world.

The controversy centres on reports that the Israel Embassy in Bonn is seeking the dismissal of Rainer Bernstein, chairman of the association, known in Germany as the Deutsch-Israelische Gesellschaft (DIG).

West German Ambassador Per Fischer has criticized Israel Ambassador Yohanan Meroz for his attitude towards the association, stating that he had the "astonishing"

impression that Meroz was being backed by Jerusalem. But the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem said last night that the criticism of Meroz was "without foundation" and that all action taken by Meroz concerning DIG was "on instructions from Jerusalem."

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Fischer wrote that "this (demand) certainly exceeds what an embassy can and should require from a German association."

Diplomatic observers in Jerusalem told The Jerusalem Post last night that a small but very vocal group in DIG which reflected marginal and New Left views was trying to dominate the association and was spreading more time telling Israel how to talk to Yasser Arafat than promoting amity between the German and Israeli peoples.

This group sent a delegation to Israel two months ago, and the delegation devoted most of its visit to interviewing New Left elements in Israel. Members of the delegation at a public meeting in Tel Aviv, expressed sharply hostile opinions and one man even asked why "Jews who were hounded by the Nazis in Europe" came here to hound the Arabs in their turn.

Ze'ev Shek, deputy director-general of the Foreign Ministry responsible for Western Europe, was reportedly dismayed when he heard of this incident, and said to his colleagues: "I did not get out of Auschwitz alive to hear such vile remarks."

Jerusalem says that it had no idea of Ambassador Per Fischer's views about Yohanan Meroz before Fischer wrote to Westphal. The feeling here is that Fischer put his foot in it and behaved in a manner not consonant with diplomatic procedure, but there is no intention of making a public complaint.

Jerusalem is certain that the silent majority in the association will overcome the strident minority, whose activities should be seen in their correct proportion.

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## Soviets free activist Jews after suppressing symposium and vigil

MOSCOW. — Russian authorities late Friday and early yesterday released Jewish activist leaders after holding them under house arrest for four days while a planned symposium on Jewish culture and a memorial vigil were suppressed.

Some of the 17 activists confined on Tuesday morning told Western newsmen Friday evening that they had been allowed to leave their homes.

An additional 30 persons were detained, either at their homes or at police stations, during the day Friday to prevent them from attending a memorial vigil on the steps of the Lenin Library. The vigil was to have marked the sixth anniversary of a trial in Leningrad at which 11 persons, most of them Jews, were given prison sentences after an attempt to hijack an airplane to Israel.

The few who were not detained at their homes Friday were met when they reached the library and escorted to the subway by policemen and plainclothes security men. Two Western correspondents saw a

half-dozen persons ushered away in this manner before they too were surrounded by policemen and told to leave.

Meanwhile in Washington, the U.S. State Department has publicly criticized the Soviet government for its treatment of Soviet Jews, American scholars and Peter Osnos, the Moscow correspondent for the "Washington Post."

Department spokesman Robert Funseth said that "such meetings as the symposium are fully in accord" with the provisions of the Helsinki agreement. He said that the department had expressed this view to the Soviet Embassy after the Soviet government had refused to grant visas to eight American scholars who sought to attend the symposium. Four of them are representatives of the Association of Jewish Studies, a group of American and Canadian professors.

Regarding the Soviet Foreign Ministry's threat to Osnos that his "systematically writing articles of a rudely anti-Soviet nature" would bring "certain consequences," Fun-

seth said "such warnings are not conducive to the free flow of information" and is "not consistent" with the Helsinki accord to improve relations among countries. Osnos' articles included some on the circumstances of Jews seeking to emigrate to Israel or live Jewish lives in the Soviet Union.

"The New York Times" wrote in an editorial on Thursday that "if it were not fundamentally so serious, there would be much that is comic about the frenzied Soviet reaction to the unofficial symposium on Jewish culture this week in Moscow."

Noting that the Soviets mobilized "all the non-nuclear forces" they have to halt the symposium from taking place, the newspaper stated: "The symposium, its proceedings forcibly curtailed, is over. The Soviet state still stands. But what remains to be answered is why such a small effort to take advantage of the constitutionally guaranteed rights of free speech produced such panic in the Kremlin." (JTA, AP)



BEAUTIFUL BALLOON — Ron Giovanni said he just wanted to give New Yorkers a chance to see a balloon in flight last Friday, when he sailed his 60-foot hot-air balloon past the Empire State Building in Midtown Manhattan. Police did not take kindly to Giovanni's public-spirited gesture, and ordered him to appear in court on two charges — apparently for traffic violations. (UPI telephoto)

## Japan's new PM to be 'economic diplomat'

TOKYO. — Japan's new Prime Minister, Takeo Fukuda, said yesterday that he would make the world economy his top priority in his new post. He said he would place priority on stimulating the economy and a complete investigation of the multimillion dollar Lockheed payoff scandal.

The Lockheed affair, uncovered in Washington last February, brought the arrest of 18 persons, including former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka. Although elected to the parliament, Tanaka faces trial in January on charges that he violated the foreign exchange control law and received a \$1.66m. bribe from the American aircraft manufacturer.

Fukuda said earlier the scandal brought his ruling Liberal Democratic party into a "storm." Former Prime Minister Takeo Miki was harshly criticized by the majority of his party for his enthusiasm in pushing the Lockheed investigations. But, Fukuda, supported by the party majority, said: "I would follow Mr. Miki's policy in continuing the Lockheed scandal."

"The basic question is the moral standard of our party and I have found after careful probes that all of my (21) cabinet ministers are clean," he added. (AP, Reuter)

## 8 Mauritius 'good losers' win

PORT LOUIS, Mauritius. — The Marxist Party which scored an unexpected success in last week's general election and is bidding to form the next government in Mauritius picked up four more seats in Parliament on Friday.

But it was unclear whether the Mauritius Militant Movement (MMM) would take over the government from the Labour Party-Muslim Action Committee coalition of Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam.

Eight seats were allocated on Friday by the electoral advisory commission to the eight "best losers" in the election.

Four went to the MMM, which was previously unrepresented in parliament but now has 34 of the 70 legislative assembly seats. Three extra seats went to Sir Seewoosagur's coalition, leaving it with 28, and one to the Social Democratic Party (FMSD), which now has eight seats.

Sir Seewoosagur's coalition, which lost its absolute majority in the election, is trying to stay in power, possibly with the help of the FMSD. Both Sir Seewoosagur's backers and the MMM have said they are confident of forming the next government. (Reuter)

## WALL STREET WEEK

NEW YORK. — The stock market showed some holiday spirit last week with a moderate advance in continued active trading.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks gained 6.56 to 985.62, its highest closing level since the end of September. That extended the average's advance for the past three weeks to 35.07 points.

Standard and Poor's 500-stock composite index joined in with a .58 rise to 104.84, and the New York Stock Exchange composite index of more than 1,500 common stocks rose .25 to 56.49. Big Board volume averaged 24.15 million shares a day in the holiday-shortened week, down from 25.35 million the previous week.

Last week began with a drop of 6.65 Dow points on Monday. But from that point the average turned around to post consecutive gains of 5.98, 6.15 and 1.08 before Wall Street closed down Thursday night lifted off the market.

One bit of news that helped spark the upturn was Tuesday's report from the government that its consumer price index rose by only a moderate 3 per cent last month, matching the pace of October. For added impetus, New York's Chase Manhattan Bank cut its prime lending rate from 6 1/2 to 6 per cent, joining two other large banks at that level.

Such news contributed to a general atmosphere of optimism among investors over the outlook for both inflation and interest rates. Beyond that, analysts noted that investors seemed to be inspired by visions of the powerful rallies the market has staged in each of the past two years. And the theory was making the rounds that performance could be repeated this time once the pressure of year-end tax selling is lifted off the market.

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Lecturer: Aharon Amir, Board Member of Israel Public Committee for Aiding Lebanon

At Hadassah University Hospital

Lecturer: Dr. S. Nissim, F.A.C.S. Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Mt. Scopus

January 10 WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A JEW IN ISRAEL?

Lecturers: Moshe Kohn, Jerusalem Post

Dr. Gideon Shlomo, Institute for Contemporary Jewish, The Hebrew University

Admission 112.00; after January 1, 1977, 115.00

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## Former French minister shot dead in street

PARIS. — Former government minister Jean de Broglie, who helped negotiate France's 1962 independence accord with Algeria, was shot dead by a young man in a Paris street on Friday.

An extreme right-wing organization thought to be composed of former French settlers in Algeria later claimed responsibility.

A man claiming to represent the "Charles Martel Club," named after the medieval French warrior who defeated the Moors in 732, telephoned a French news agency to say Prince de Broglie, 55, was killed because he was among those responsible for the "invasion of France by North African bandits."

French authorities said the call was being checked but declined to say immediately whether they believed it.

The Charles Martel Club claimed responsibility for a number of bomb attacks on Algerian property, but none of these claims has been substantiated, an Interior Ministry spokesman said.

De Broglie was a friend of President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, a long-standing member of parliament for the French leader's Independent Republican Party.

Eye-witnesses told police he was shot twice in the head by a man aged between 17 and 20. The assassin, said to have been wearing blue jeans and an overcoat, was seen speaking briefly to the party's spokesman before he whipped out a pistol and fired.

Police cordoned off the area, but the assassin had already escaped.

## Dutch probers to visit USSR in Menten case

THE HAGUE. — The Soviet Union has authorized a 20-day visit by a Dutch inquiry team looking into war crime charges against Dutch millionaire art collector Pieter Menten, the Justice Ministry announced on Friday.

A spokesman said the team will visit an area of the Ukraine where Menten is alleged to have participated in the massacre of Polish Jews during the summer of 1941. The area, close to the town of Lvov (formerly Lemberg) was part of Poland at that time.

Menten, who served in the Nazi SS during the war, was expelled by Switzerland on Wednesday and is now under police interrogation at a prison in Amsterdam. He had fled to Switzerland in mid-November, just before detectives arrived at his luxury villa close to Amsterdam to arrest him.

The Dutch inquiry team will comprise a public prosecutor, two detectives and an interpreter. It will make the trip at a date yet to be determined in January or February, the spokesman said.

The Russians have now forwarded two batches of documentation to The Hague on war-time atrocities at two villages in the Lvov area. The material has not been published but is known to contain details of mass graves found in the region as well as the testimony of witnesses given in a Ukrainian district court. Menten, 77, has firmly denied any involvement in the killing of Poles, Jews and his defence has been undertaken by a top Dutch trial lawyer, Bernard Simon, who himself was an inmate of a Nazi concentration camp.

The art collector will appear before a public prosecutor in Amsterdam tomorrow, but it is expected that he will be held in custody until a judge can extend preliminary custody for successive periods up to a total of 106 days. Menten is not held on a general charge of crime against humanity.

(AP, Reuters)

## U.S. asked to reopen case of executed WWII deserter

PHILADELPHIA. — The U.S. Army was asked to reopen the case of Private Eddie Slovik, the only American soldier shot for desertion since the Civil War of the 1860's.

The request, filed here on behalf of Slovik's widow, claims the Army made legal and moral errors during World War II in executing Slovik by firing squad in France on January 31, 1945.

Slovik, 24, was the only American soldier shot for desertion since the Civil War of the 1860's.

After the second desertion he submitted a written confession saying "I'll run away again, if I have to go there." The Army used that confession against him in its court martial, which began in November, 1944. He was 24 when executed.

Bernard Edelson, lawyer for the widow, said he has asked the Army Board for Correction of Military Records to approve payment to Mrs. Slovik of \$61,000, the proceeds plus interest on Slovik's military life insurance policy.

Mrs. Slovik is living on public welfare in a Detroit nursing home under an assumed name, Edelson said.

The application claims the Army failed to conduct an adequate psychiatric evaluation of Slovik before he was executed.

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Slovik's execution was the subject of a book, "The Execution of Private Slovik," by American author William Bradford Huie.

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## Rabin's thunderbolt upsets the appletart

THE PAST WEEK in the region has been plunged in view of the unexpected government crisis in Jerusalem.

All this talk about a "political union" appears to be a Sadat-designed manoeuvre. Assad, suspecting that Sadat had abandoned the military option with his signing of last year's interim Sinai agreement, has been primarily seeking to draw Egypt back into the military front against Israel. But Sadat's attempt to draw Damascus back into the Cairo axis seems to be a desperate bid to revive his former commanding role, currently overshadowed by that of the Syrian leader. Assad's determined moves in spreading his country's hegemony over Lebanon and Jordan, as well as his success in establishing his image in wider Arab circles have certainly turned him into the number one Arab leader to be reckoned with in this region.

The Week In Review  
By ANAN SAFADI

Lebanon which Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and his Syrian counterpart Hafez Assad were just emerging out.

The two Arab leaders had indicated their Cairo conference to be the consolidation of their political and military moves. The aim of pressing Israel — as well as the U.S. in conjunction with Saudi Arabia — into considering an early comprehensive settlement in Geneva of the Middle East conflict, on Arab terms, with the Israeli national elections originally set for next November, it had seemed feasible to the new Carter administration not to wait until then before making the squeeze on Israel. But the elections now only about five months away, and with an interim government in Jerusalem to boot, the Americans are not likely to take "things too far" for Rabin. It is hoped that a clear message from the people to make concessions in an overall peace settlement.

The Egyptian and Syrian leaders' programming, however, was evidently wrecked by Rabin's thunderbolt in Jerusalem. At least this is the case with regard to Cairo's official planning. Militarily speaking, the two leaders have been modifying their joint strategies ever since they patched up their two-months ago and reinstated Egyptian War Minister Gen. Mohammed Abdul-Ghani Gensay, a commander-in-chief of the Arab army confronting Israel.

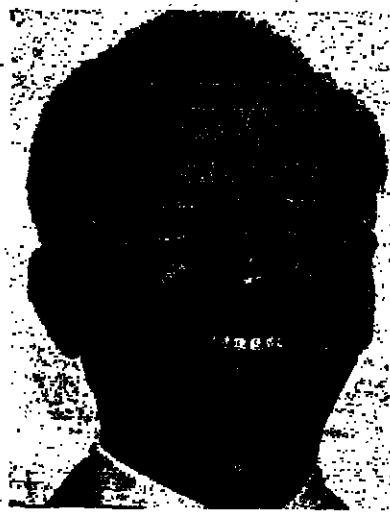
Last week's announcement in Cairo that Egypt and Syria were laying the groundwork for a political reunion appeared to be more a ritual chosen as a way out of the political impasse in which

Sadat and Assad seemed to have been plunged in view of the unexpected government crisis in Jerusalem.

An ironic touch in last week's Cairo conference was that it was Sadat who voiced the strongest opposition to interim settlements with Israel, stressing that Arabs confronting Israel should go it together in any future Middle East deliberations. It indeed appears that the Egyptian leader fears a deal between the U.S., Israel and Assad.

Moreover, it is Sadat who is now championing the cause of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the vow to establish a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by next year. This is in contrast to Assad for whom the PLO cause comes second to the recovery of Syrian territories captured by Israel in the 1967 war. The Egyptian leader's aim seems to be to undermine the Syrian concept of promoting a Greater Syria under which any projected Palestinian state would be incorporated into a Jordanian establishment which is now engineering a federal union with Assad.

Unlike Assad, who did not bother to mention the PLO in a recent joint communiqué with Jordan's King Hussein, Sadat last week clearly demanded that the Palestinian movement be called to Geneva as an independent authority "on equal footing with other participants." The PLO, on its part, declared over the weekend that it won't go to the Swiss lake-side city, presumably in a bid to have various circles, including the UN, beg it to change its mind in yet another "gesture of moderation."



Premier Rabin

WASHINGTON. — American officials were initially confused last week in their assessments of the latest governmental crisis in Jerusalem and the proposed union between Egypt and Syria. At first, they were reluctant even to discuss the sensitive issues involved. But later in the week, as more information began pouring into Washington from the Arab world and Israel, the Americans began to feel more confident in their evaluations, and started opening private discussions with reporters.

On the matter of the early Israeli elections, American experts are pleased by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's decision to oust the National Religious Party from the ruling coalition. They felt that the NRP was becoming an increasing burden to the Israeli Government, and that the situation was almost "intolerable."

From Washington's standpoint, the NRP represented an "extreme" right-wing religious party that would probably never agree to negotiate over the return of the West Bank, and this refusal, according to the Americans, meant that efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict through diplomacy were doomed.

Official Washington has long believed that any Israeli government that included the NRP was incapable of reaching a peace agreement with the Arabs, and that sooner or later, the NRP would have either to change its position 180 degrees on an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank or leave the government.

American sources have long voiced their private disdain over the inclusion of the NRP in the government by noting that party Member of Knesset Zevulun Hammer was a "fanatic." These sources went so far as to say they would even prefer the inclusion of the Likud opposition in an Israeli government, rather than the NRP — although they would add

## U.S. experts think NRP ouster may help peace

By WOLF BLITZER  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

quickly that a Likud-led government would probably also be unwilling to make enough important territorial concessions in exchange for an overall peace settlement.

It has been the official position of the 1967 Six Day War that Israel would eventually have to return virtually to the pre-war frontiers — with only minor adjustments — if negotiations were ever to succeed. Thus, any Israeli government that included a political party opposing such massive concessions, even in exchange for "peace," would obstruct diplomatic negotiating efforts.

It was clear here last week that the United States would be hoping to see a new Israeli government emerge from the forthcoming elec-



tions with a clear-cut mandate to enter into negotiations with the Arab states leading toward an overall settlement — including substantial territorial concessions on the West Bank.

American officials are very sensitive to the fact that actions taken by Washington during what is expected to be a rough Israeli campaign can have an important impact on the outcome. Thus, the outgoing Ford Administration and the incoming Carter Administration will think twice before embarking on Middle East policies, taking into full consideration the likely effect on the Israeli voter.



Former Minister Hameer

Several Carter aides said this past week that the re-scheduling of the Israeli elections would prove beneficial for the new administration in that it will allow Secretary of State-designate Cyrus Vance, the new National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and the rest of the incoming foreign policy team more time to assess the current situation in the region before taking specific steps.

Regarding the Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement, American officials believe that the materialization of a union between the two countries is not in the cards in the foreseeable future, despite the emphasis on such an eventual move at the end of the lengthy talks in Cairo between Presidents Anwar Sadat and Hafez Assad.

"It's not really serious," one American source here said.

What the Americans do believe is that Egypt and Syria, for their own disparate reasons, want to coordinate their positions in order to urge the Carter Administration to move quickly on Arab-Israeli negotiations. The thinking here is that both Damascus and Cairo still are convinced that only the U.S. can exert the necessary pressure on Israel to withdraw to the pre-1967 borders — the Arab military option, which requires the Soviet Union's input, is not realistic next year.

Another reason attributed to the proposed union, according to the view here, is that both Sadat and Assad wanted to increase their own legitimacy within their respective governments and the Arab world at large by formally ending their year-long feud.

Syria's role in Lebanon and Egypt's interim Sinai accord, which were widely criticized in the Arab world, now seem to have been forgotten with one quick stroke of a joint announcement.

## Beirut gov't gets more power as terror grows

BEIRUT. — Lebanon's new government on Friday won a vote of confidence from parliament and was given "extraordinary powers" to rule by decree for the next six months in order to rebuild the country and establish security after 20 months of civil war.

The powers would allow the government to reorganize the army, impose press censorship, change the country's electoral laws and float loans without legislative approval. Powers were needed, Premier Sa-

He also said his administration would try to end corruption in government, which has "deepened the cleavage between the citizens in the state." Meeting another complaint of the Left, Hoss, an economics professor, placed his administration in favor of reforms that could lead to a more equitable distribution of the country's wealth.

He warned the nation's businessmen and bankers that Lebanon would not return to its completely free laissez-faire economy. The reconstruction of the country — which he hoped would be financed by outside nations — requires "general guidelines" that, he said, would walk the thin line between the country's traditional free enterprise system and the country's economic and social needs.

He said Lebanon's banks would be used to channel money for reconstruction projects — but they would be under some government controls. The best estimate is that reconstruction will cost about \$3,000m. with at least \$100m. needed immediately to get the work started.

Hoss has just returned from trips to oil-rich Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to see about getting money there, and President Elias Sarkis sent Ghassan Taweini, the publisher of "an-Nahar," as his personal envoy to the United States to seek aid there and from the United Nations.

While Hoss cited "pressing social problems" such as housing and feeding the country's 764,000 needy and displaced persons, caring for children orphaned by the war and providing jobs for the unemployed, he gave no specific plan of action. He acknowledged that the 20 months of bitter civil war left behind a residue of "ill will which shook the very foundations of our national entity, cracked our unity and threatened our faith in our destiny."

Hoss spoke in parliament's temporary meeting place, the Villa Mansour in the middle of what was the confrontation line between the Left and the Christian Right. The building itself was pocked with shells and was guarded by a ring of Lebanese security police with Arab troops in the background.

## No home ports for Med fleets

between the Black Sea bases and the Euxine. (Turkey, NATO member, has the right and the military ability to close the Straits in time of war or anticipated war.)

It also means that they must retreat and replenish at sea, and return to the Soviet Union for any but the simplest repairs. Whenever the Russians stop steaming around the Eastern Mediterranean in giant circles, like toy boats in an enormous bathtub, it is only to drop anchor in international waters — their favorite anchorages are east and west of Crete, and off the Libyan-Tunisian coast.

The United States, of course, is different. It has friends and allies along practically all corners of the Mediterranean. What more could it possibly want in the way of bases? Well, actually, quite a bit more.

The problem is that not a single one of those places looks a totally reliable home for the Sixth Fleet any more. France is out because of French sensitivities about sovereignty; Israel because of Arab sensitivities, (and even now many Israelis would oppose the idea of American

bases on their soil). Cyprus is unavailable because the British sovereign base areas are reserved for United Kingdom use only, by international treaty.

Malta will become unavailable in 1979, when the present bases' agreement expires.

By GWYNN DYER  
Special to the Jerusalem Post

ment with the British government. The Maltese government has already announced that it will then declare itself neutral. Most of the Spanish political parties from the centre leftwards, who together will probably dominate in a newly democratic Spain, are opposed to the continuation of American bases there. That leaves only the three full NATO partners — Italy, Greece and Turkey.

But the Turkish government is furious with Washington over the arms embargo, and unless Congress rescinds it in full, which is not all that likely, Ankara will not all that likely. Ankara will not allow the existing U.S. bases, currently in suspended an-

tion, to remain. Greek public opinion has been so anti-American since 1974 that many recent courtesy calls by American warships have had to be cut short after rioting by the local inhabitants. As for Italy, which provides the Sixth Fleet's present home base in Naples, all the signs there indicate a gradually expanding role in government for the Italian Communist Party.

The Italian Communists insist that they would remain within the political framework of NATO, so as not to panic anybody. Nevertheless their enthusiasm for the Sixth Fleet, or any U.S. military presence in their country, is distinctly subdued. There may well not be a formal Communist presence in any Italian government for quite some time, and even then probably only as minority partner in a coalition. But the long-term prospects of the Italian base are uncertain.

During the panic about a possible Communist victory in last year's Italian election, the U.S. quietly considered the feasibility of moving the Sixth Fleet's home port if necessary to the west coast of Greece, either

at Pylos or Preveza. Though Athens formally left NATO's military command structure in 1974, the Greek government would welcome such a move, as giving Greece additional leverage over Washington in its confrontation with Turkey over Cyprus. But it would probably not dare, for the mere hint of a big new American base would mean popular upheavals in Greece.

A genuine possibility now exists that by the early 1980s the Sixth Fleet might be as homeless in the Mediterranean, if not as friendless, as the Russians' squadron is now. That might not in fact be an utter disaster.

A powerful Russia has always maintained a Mediterranean fleet, but its reappearance in the region in 1963, after a 50-year absence, was almost solely in response to the American presence. Neither fleet is capable of large-scale intervention ashore (except by air power, in the U.S. case). The fleets are geographically in the Mediterranean, but exist mainly for purposes connected with the central strategic confrontation.

It would do no fatal harm if they both had to get along with fewer or even no permanent shore bases around the Mediterranean. The strategic foundations of the world are not being shaken.

## Pilgrim ship sinks near Jeddah, 100 said missing

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia. — Port sources said that 100 people were still missing yesterday from the Egyptian-registered pilgrim ship Patra which caught fire and sank off this port city on Friday. Rescue craft continued their search for more survivors yesterday.

The semi-official Cairo newspaper "Al-Ahram" had reported earlier that about 130 people were missing. Exact figures probably won't be known for several days.

The newspaper also reported that the Patra's captain, Mohammed Hammad Shaaban, was killed while leading attempts to rescue the 480 passengers. However, the owners of the 3,920-ton ship, a joint Egyptian-Saudi company called Arab Navigators, said that they could not confirm or deny reports that the captain had been killed.

There also have been conflicting reports on the number of people aboard the ship which was carrying passengers from Mecca and Medina. Official sources said it carried 350 passengers, while other sources said the figure was between 500 and 600. The Cairo newspaper reported that more than 350 passengers were saved, although one died later in a hospital of injuries. It was added that all the passengers and crew had been taken off the boat before it sank. Cause of the disaster was attributed to a passenger's fireworks stove which exploded and caught fire.

The Egyptian official Middle East News Agency reported that Egyptian planes, including the special aircraft of President Anwar Sadat, had brought some of those rescued to Cairo. Some of the survivors were injured, the agency said. The Patra was heading for Suez when the fire broke out. It was the second Moslem pilgrim ship to catch fire recently.

A fire against old ships creating fire hazards in Jeddah harbor, the Saudi Arabian Government has issued a decree that would keep all ships older than 15 years out of the port. (Reuter, AP)

## Zhivago's train finally arrives in Cairo

MONEY ALONE is not enough, according to Kuwait's "al-Yatan." The paper notes that despite the fact that Kuwait has one of the highest per capita incomes in the world, thanks to oil, the housing situation is getting worse. Of the 139,400 dwellings in the country over 10 per cent are on the verge

Between The Lines  
By HIRSH GOODMAN

of collapse because of old age. In addition there has only been a 23.3 per cent increase in dwellings over the past five years as opposed to a 34.7 increase in population, resulting in a higher overall density per room in the country.

EGYPT HAS developed a unique problem according to "Al-Ahram." The country has managed to borrow so much money it is having trouble disposing of it efficiently. Hundreds of millions of dollars obtained recently in loans from the West are lying unutilized in Egyptian banks, having been earmarked for projects the country is incapable of carrying out. The paper reports that as a result President Anwar Sadat has given orders to establish a new bureaucracy which will deal specifically with how to spend money. Its first immediate task will be how to get rid of the money before the latest batch of foreign loans arrive in the country in the 1977 fiscal year.

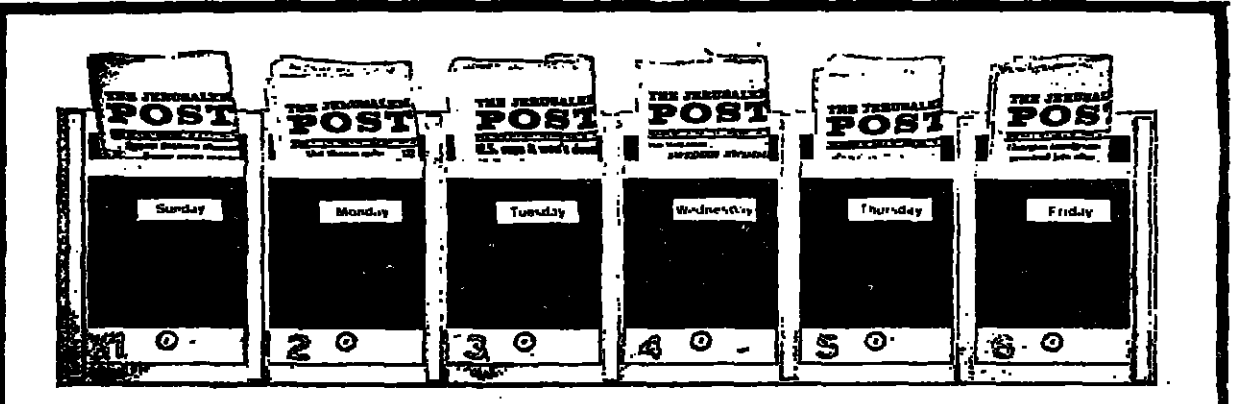
ALONG THE Suez Canal, the Egyptian authorities have yet another perplexing problem according to "Al-Ahram": the only TV station that can be picked up by local residents there is Israel's. The head of the Egyptian Television Authority, one Hassan Abdul-Moneim, explains that the reason for this phenomenon is that transmitters to the area were built during the October 1973 war rather in a rush. He said that the problem was high on his agenda, but that no solution could be implemented till the end of 1977. Until then the several hundred thousand inhabitants of the towns along the Canal will have to put

up with the offerings from Television House, Jerusalem.

AND A SAMPLING of letters to the editor from the Egyptian press: An accountant by the name of Ahmed Ussama Assel writes to "Al-Khbar el-Yom" that he was pleased to note that at long last Doctor Zhivago, starring Egyptian actor Omar Sharif, is playing in Cairo for the first time. "It may be ten years late in coming," he writes, "but better late than never." He explains in his letter that the fact that the movie is being shown is a sure sign that Soviet influence in Egypt has been eradicated once and for all.

IN THE SAME paper one Abbas Sadat writes that he would like to change all the tax cars given by the government to senior officials for garbage collection vans in a last ditch attempt to clean up the streets of Cairo. By taking away their cars, he writes, two things would be achieved: firstly, there would be money for the purchase of dump trucks and, secondly, perhaps if they were forced to walk the filthy streets then the officials would do something about the problem.

THE SYRIANS have their complaints too: "We read in 'Tishrin' that the inhabitants of the town of Kamabshi are threatening to take drastic action unless something is done soon about the availability of drugs in the city. The paper notes that there is only one pharmacy for 150,000 people there."



**Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra IBA**  
AT THE JERUSALEM THEATRE

### Concert at Jerusalem Theatre

Saturday Night, January 8, at 8.30 p.m.

Conductor: GARY BERTINI

Programme: BLOCH — "Sacred Service"

Soloist: GUNTHER REICH

with the TRITONUS Choir from Denmark and the Jerusalem Rubin Academy Choir directed by John Hoybye and Stanley Sperber

TANZMAN: "Shabbetai Zevi" (acts 2 and 3). Israeli Premiere. Libretto: Nathan Bistritsky

Soloists: Gunther Reich, Stella Richmond, Nissim Tagger, Menasse Hadjia, Louis Garb, Abraham Salomon, Willy Haparnoss, Tibor Herdan

Narrator: DAN KANER

Tickets are available at the Cahana Agency and the Theatre box office (open daily 4-6 p.m.)

This concert is in the White Series (No. 5 for subscribers).

Please note: The concert will take place on Saturday night, January 8, and not on January 11 as previously published.

**TECHNION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

TECHNION SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR  
Conductor: Dalia Atlas

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The Technion Orchestra and Choir and The Israel Pro-Musica Orchestra

Tuesday, December 28, 1976, 8.30 p.m. in the Ohmichal Auditorium, Technion City, Haifa.

Conductor: Dalia Atlas; — Soloist: Avraham Comfort, violin

Programme:  
Schubert — Symphony No. 4; Mendelssohn — Concerto in E Minor  
Admission Free

Please be prompt. The doors will be closed when all the seats have been filled. Cars without Technion stickers must be parked outside the entrance gate.

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